

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

Published every morning. Terms of subscription: Daily (without Sunday), One Year, \$4.00; Six Months, \$2.50; Three Months, \$1.50; Single Copies, 5c.

Advertisement rates: One square, 10c per week; one column, 25c per week; one page, 50c per week. Longer advertisements at special rates.

Subscription information: Subscribers in foreign countries should add postage. Single copies 5c.

Mr. Hanna, as usual, is not saying much. His record is for action rather than speech.

The Coxy-Brown combination sounds a good deal like Cox's Browns, but it is not half so entertaining.

To reduce the legal rate of interest on city warrants will not provide a more effective means of paying the warrants themselves.

The first installment of stock yards registration bills has made its appearance at Lincoln, but the stock yards people are not worrying.

Indications are multiplying that the recent arbitration treaty is a victory for American diplomacy. Russia is now said to be unfavorable to it.

If General Weyler is in bad humor he may console himself with the thought that he has been the means of putting a good many other people out of temper in his time.

Jingo congressmen now have ample provocation to let slip the dogs of war upon the faraway country of Siam. The fall of the American coat is been very forcibly trodden on over there.

Mr. Wiley is again out of a job, but it is very unlikely that he will require the good offices of his friend, Engineer Howell, to secure for him a lucrative position under the Water Works company.

In the controversy over the location of the next meeting of the National Press Reform association, as usual where Paul Vandervoort is concerned, there is only one real genuine thing, and he's it.

The growing certainty that Senator Sherman will be at the head of the next cabinet relieves in a corresponding degree the anxiety of several Barkies who were entirely willing to serve in that capacity.

The telephone company is extending its lines in all directions throughout the state, thereby increasing the facility of communication between the smaller towns and the Transmississippi Exposition center.

Local labor certainly has rights in connection with the work of the exposition. But at the same time there is no reason for "holloering" before there is the slightest intimation that anybody is in danger of being hurt.

The Iowa State fair is \$11,000 in debt. The Iowa State fair, however, cannot get far ahead of the Nebraska State fair in this respect. A state fair is not a success that does not leave some debts to be made up from the receipts of the next year's fair.

The Transmississippi Exposition Bill prepared by the Department of Promotion and introduced by Representative Dudley Smith is framed in the best interests of the enterprise and should be favorably acted upon by the legislature without unnecessary delay.

Treasurer St. John of the poperaotic national committee is no longer a banker, but his exit from the banking business has not been exactly voluntary. Being no longer on the inside of banking circles, however, his usefulness to the poperaotic exchequer must be sadly impaired.

The bosses who run the machines of all parties will get together very readily in favor of a ballot law that will enable them to vote for roosters and eagles and owls to designate their choice for yellow dog candidates. The intelligent and conscientious citizen votes for men and not for emblems.

The ingenuity of the police is likely to be taxed in recovering the rubber baptismal suit which was recently stolen from a local church. It is difficult to conceive what legitimate use a plain, every day thief could make of such a commodity, and of course it is out of the question that the garment has been borrowed by a rival congregation.

A legislative majority can do almost anything it chooses in the matter of unseating opponents and sending party friends. It is not always good policy or good politics, however, to take advantage of strength of numbers to oust members unquestionably elected just because the defeated candidates are in need of the revenue the position brings.

ENCOURAGING SIGNS. Interviews with leading merchants in various lines of trade in New York show a consensus of opinion that there will be a marked improvement in business with the opening of spring and that if there is a judicious revision of the tariff by the next congress there will be, before the summer is passed, a general revival of industrial activity that must give the country prosperity.

One of these said: "Cool-headed business men can reach no other conclusion than that good times are ahead of us. One reason for such a conclusion is found in last year's trade balances. In 1870, one of the most prosperous years in our history, we congratulated ourselves that there was over \$900,000,000 on our credit in the international trade balances. This year our credit will be millions more than that. Our exports during the past year have been heavy and our imports light. For the first time the United States heads the list of the creditor nations of the world. This means national prosperity." Another said that what we most need to bring back a revival of business is the enactment of a protective tariff measure, which would increase the demand for American goods, stimulate trade and provide a revenue sufficient to meet our expenses.

It is certainly not a lack of money that prevents business revival. In the last two weeks the deposits in the clearing house banks of New York increased considerably over \$100,000,000 and according to the last weekly statement the reserves of these banks were \$44,000,000 in excess of the legal requirement. There is cheaper money in the United States than in the European money markets and instead of borrowing money from Europe, as was the case a year ago, we have been lending money abroad. Whereas at this date last year gold was flowing to Europe and the treasury was preparing to issue bonds to replenish the depleted reserve, now that reserve is nearly \$140,000,000 and growing. Our exports continue on a liberal scale, assuring, unless there should be an unexpected increase in imports, a still larger balance of trade in favor of the United States.

All these are most encouraging conditions and amply justify the opinion that the country is at the threshold of an era of great business activity and prosperity.

SPONDER OF WISCONSIN. The republicans of Wisconsin are to be congratulated upon the nomination of ex-Senator John C. Spooner to succeed Senator Vilas in the United States senate. This action will be heartily welcomed by republicans everywhere who know of the great ability of Colonel Spooner and of the excellent record he made in the national senate. During the one term he served in that body he became a recognized leader on the republican side and there can be no doubt that he will resume that position when he returns to the senate. Colonel Spooner is one of the ablest men in the country. He is distinguished as a lawyer, he is a forceful and eloquent orator, and his republicanism is of the most sterling quality. It is not too much to say that he is the peer of any as an exponent and advocate of republican principles. That he will be an earnest supporter of the next administration of course goes without saying. His nomination by the joint republican caucus was unanimous. Such men as Colonel Spooner elevate the character of the national senate and improve its claim to public confidence.

PROPOSED NOTHING NEW. The deliberations of the Indianapolis monetary convention contributed nothing new toward the solution of the problem of currency reform. The convention declared for the maintenance of the gold standard; for the ultimate retirement of United States notes by some process that would avoid injurious contraction of the currency; and for a banking system that would give an elastic circulation and a better distribution of loanable capital. It suggested a monetary commission to be authorized by congress to consider the currency question and report to congress, or if such legislation cannot be secured an executive committee appointed by the chairman of the convention shall create a commission to devise a plan of currency reform to be presented to a meeting of the convention called by the executive committee.

Such is the outcome of a conference of representative business men from which a good deal was expected, and it is distinctly disappointing. It has not removed any of the difficulties of the problem which the convention met to consider. It has not shed any new light on the currency question, and it has not shown that these practical business men have any more or better ideas on the subject than the politicians in congress. There is not a proposition in the resolutions adopted by the monetary convention which has not already been presented in congress and freely discussed in the press. There is nothing new about them and they do not acquire any added merit or strength from the declarations of the Indianapolis convention.

So far as the maintenance of the gold standard is concerned, that has been decided by the people. That standard has been the basis of our currency for many years and it will continue to be for many years to come. The most important feature of the Indianapolis declaration relates to the retirement of the legal tender notes. The convention, as was expected, favored getting rid of these notes, but it did not suggest how this could be done without injuriously contracting the currency or disturbing the business of the country. It recognized this danger, but offered nothing to avert it. It is a proposition that is opposed by a large majority of the American people and which no political party will adopt. Retirement of the legal tender notes as a condition precedent to currency reform is at this time utterly out of the question and its agitation useless. It is undoubtedly desirable that there should be better banking facilities in portions of the country and a distribu-

tion of loanable capital that would tend to equalize the rates of interest generally. But how far this is to be promoted by legislation is a question. Banks will be established only where there is promise of profitable business and loanable capital will go only where the credit of the people is such as to invite it. This is the case under present conditions. It is a matter of business, not to be materially affected by legislation.

The suggestion of a monetary commission to be appointed by authority of congress is not likely to be adopted. In that case a commission to be named by the executive committee of the Indianapolis convention will formulate a currency bill. It probably cannot get such a measure before congress before next December and it may be a year and a half hence before it can receive any consideration. In any event a measure framed on the lines suggested by the Indianapolis convention is certain to fail.

RAILROAD-RIDDEN COURTS. Arkansas now seems to hold the championship belt for railroad-ridden courts. The decision which entitles it to this proud distinction was handed down this week by the supreme court sitting at Little Rock reversing a lower court which had given the plaintiff a verdict for damages against a railroad for loss of his baggage.

In the case in question the passenger purchased three tickets over the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Memphis railway, which entitled him to 450 pounds of baggage. His baggage, which was contained in two trunks and three boxes, was delivered to and accepted by the railway company as baggage, checked and paid excess baggage on the same. The articles therein consisted of four feather beds, ten pillows, forty-five quilts, blankets and a large number of other articles. The passenger reached his destination, Mammoth Springs, at 11:08 p. m., and the station house wherein the agent stored the baggage was burned about 1 a. m. of the same night and the baggage was all destroyed. Suit was brought against the railroad company and judgment recovered, but the judgment is now set aside and the company declared exempt from liability.

In his opinion the judge rules that while the statute on the subject of baggage entitles each passenger paying his fare to have transported with each fare 150 pounds of baggage, to consist of "such articles as are usually carried by ordinary persons when traveling," and that when a railway company accepts such baggage, as above enumerated, it will be liable therefor as a common carrier, yet in the case at bar the company is not responsible as a common carrier, inasmuch as the passenger reached his destination at 11:08 p. m., and instead of removing his baggage that night left it in charge of the station agent, and that as the fire did not occur until 1 a. m. he had a reasonable time within which to have removed it.

In order to hold for the railroad the Arkansas court has to assert that every passenger is required to remove his baggage from the company's premises as soon as he completes his journey on penalty of losing his rights as against the company, and that more than a reasonable time has elapsed for removing baggage after two hours at midnight have passed, when probably no conveyance is available. The law reports will have to be searched with vigilance to find a parallel to such transparent jugglery.

THE BILL FOR A PUBLIC DEFENDER IN THIS county to take the place of the counsel specially appointed to defend each indigent prisoner has been introduced into the legislature, but in a form that is objectionable in several particulars. The bill is evidently drawn with the design of having the office passed around as political pie to a number of impetuous lawyers and left with each only long enough to permit of one or two bites. Accordingly the public defender is to be appointed at the beginning of each term of court, or not less than three times a year, and the same man is declared ineligible to re-appointment for a period of three years. There is little to be said in favor of such an arrangement and much against it. If the public defender is to correspond to the public prosecutor, he should be given at least a tenure of office that makes him partially independent of the appointing power.

Georgia's governor, William W. Atkinson, is at present making a tour of the Pacific coast and is expected to make his way east by way of Ogden and Denver. He ought to be induced to include Nebraska and Omaha in his route so as to secure an impression of the magnitude and prospects of the great Transmississippi Exposition. While Georgia is a good will and co-operation in this enterprise is something worth cultivating.

One of the former members of the Nebraska legislature, has the temerity to propose to repeal the law enacted to put down the Russian thistle pest. We thought the Russian thistle pest was passed in response to a unanimous demand on the part of the farming population of the state. Can it be possible that the law has accomplished all it was designed to attain within the brief period of two years?

Jacob Coxy and Paul Vandervoort will form a new party that is to be the only true reform party this side of heaven. And in accord with the eternal fitness of things its birth has been fore-ordained to take place on Independence day at Nashville, under the shadow of the statue of the gallant horse that Andrew Jackson rides.

James F. Gibbs, publisher of the Norfolk (O.) Reflector, is an announced candidate for the position of public printer of the United States, with the endorsement of the Ohio State Editorial association. Wonder if Mr. Gibbs took the precaution of securing the assent of Cadet Taylor before venturing to aspire to this appointment.

City Engineer Howell's annual report will be devoted exclusively to an exhaustive review of the water works ques-

tion and a discussion of the question of municipal ownership. The charter requires the annual reports of city officers to show conclusively the work performed in each department during the preceding calendar year, but as the engineering department has had no work to do, food for the printer must be gathered from any source.

Senator Allen is a consistent believer in fusion. He was elected by a fusion combination. He fused the populists and silver democrats to beat the republicans, and now he is fusing with his republican colleague in the senate to beat the confirmation of a sound money democrat appointed to a place on the federal district bench.

Theories and Visible Facts. Philadelphia Press. We may remark in this connection that the learned professors in international law and public law, who are wont to lecture on public law winter that there was no such thing as a Monroe doctrine had to adjust their theories to the visible facts.

That's the Question. Denver Republican. The government is now running the Union Pacific railroad through its receivers and it seems to be doing the work more successfully than the Union Pacific company did. What great harm could come to either the railroad or the country if the government should run all the railroads, we would like to know?

Governor Drake's Dilemma. New York Mail and Express. It is certainly an interesting position which Governor Drake is being obliged to assume as a result of a mandamus to compel him to commission John R. Prime as a brigadier general in the National guard. The governor's attorney is on record with a declaration that if his client were to be commissioned as brigadier general, thus creating a breach between the executive and judicial branches of government in Iowa suggestive of the executive usurpation of the national guard. An easy solution would be to place the governor in solitary confinement, and have the president's officers carefully avoid all service by him of partisan party.

The Georgia Anti-Trust Law. There has been talk of the way the new anti-trust law in Georgia is smashing the monopolies. As a matter of fact, it is not attacking the monopolies at all, so far as anybody can see. Some of the trusts have released the wholesalers in Georgia from their contracts to buy only of the trusts, and the trusts are now in possession of the field this simply means that the wholesalers must continue to buy of the trusts and pay trust prices. They can get no better prices, but they will be at the expense of the Georgia dealers and not the trusts. The Georgia law is a copy of the Illinois anti-trust law, with the main difference being more effective than the federal anti-trust law.

Punished an Infant Trust. Kansas City Star. The collapsed and bankrupt White Paper trust may be justly attributed to the exposure of its plans in the hearing of the day of claimants for tariff taxation for the protection of the trust. The trust was a means committee of the house of representatives, and that being the case, Chairman Dingley is to be congratulated for his useful purpose by his tariff hearings. The best results to the public are obtained by free and open competition. When a trust is set up in other products of industrial enterprise, and the failure of an effort to form a trust is to be welcomed as a healthy sign in the commercial world, when the trust is an individual operator has a chance to compete in the open on a fair field, and as competitors are not the death of trusts, it is the quickening of enterprise.

PARTING OF THE WAYS. Prediction of a Triangular Fight Four Years Hence. St. Louis Republic (silver-dem). "What will the populists do?" is one of the interesting questions arising out of the recent alliance campaign. An intimation of the answer as to a part of them at least is contained in the address of George F. Washburn, the populist national executive committee.

Mr. Washburn calls upon the populists to recognize for an independent campaign on their own behalf. His address is a series of utterances of the leaders conferring in this city emphasize the fact that the democrats and populists were not held together by an artificial bond, but that they are united against fusion before election day and rejoiced over the defeat of the democracy. The bulk of those who cling to fusion remain in the ranks of the populists, and as an entering wedge" to the main issue of greenbacks.

Members of the legislature in this state went into caucus with the democrats and thus signified their intention to act with the party. It is probable that in this respect the populists are in a better position than they are in their own party. But it will stay in their own party. But certainly all of that crowd of political wilds who are known as the populists will probably get together on a platform which will embrace fair money and all the issues of the extremists.

As a basic principle of democracy, this action on the part of the populists must signify the parting of the ways of the late allies and a triangular fight four years from now.

WHERE LABOR IS A BLESSING. Disastrous Effect of Idleness in Penal Institutions. Philadelphia Press. A Sing Sing, N. Y., convict has taken his life. The cause, the warden said, though the influence of the enforced idleness to which the new state law condemns convicts. Other convicts complain bitterly of the enforced idleness, and say that life in prison with absolutely nothing to do. The legislation which prevents convicts from engaging in useful labor is an error born of narrow-mindedness and avarice. Why should convicts be exempt from the rule? "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." Why should men who have violated the laws of society be supported thereafter by the labor of their law-abiding fellows instead of by the work of their own hands? Convicts should earn their living as well as the law-abiding citizen. Men convicted of crime are kept in prison not in vengeance but for the protection of society and for their own good. Society is not benefited by driving convicts crazy or making their lives miserable and useless. Their possible reformation is an object to be kept steadily in view. Work is a great aid to discipline, and helps keep the men in good health and counteracts a disposition to mutiny and make trouble. When men learn in prison a useful trade the chances of their becoming decent citizens when they get out of prison are fairly good. If, however, they are kept in idleness they inevitably go out of prison worse criminals than when they entered.

Humanity and sound economy both dictate that convicts shall be engaged daily at something which will occupy their time, attending to the necessities of their daily maintenance. The competition of men in jail need not be more formidable to other men than the competition of men when in the market for their surplus products. If we should assist them in any way we should be liable in the same manner to swindling damages. Under the Monroe doctrine it is a simple matter to get rid of foreign influence on the North and South American continents. We want them to take their Haps and go home. We do not want them to be tied up with any general arbitration treaty which might prevent the full application of the Monroe doctrine, nor do we want to be put in a position where we should be exposed to excessive damages, as has been the case whenever we have consented to arbitrate a dispute with Great Britain.

PROCEED WITH FORECLOSURE.

Chicago Times-Herald: Let the attorney general move forward. The United States has the right of way on the dockets of the courts, and it will be before some of these fellows will be begging to make new terms.

Denver Republican: The defeat of the bill makes foreclosure seem almost a necessity. But it does not mean the government will lose by the operation. Indeed, it is already reported that a syndicate has been formed to take the Union Pacific by paying a large percentage of the debt due to the government, and we have no doubt that this will be done.

New York World: Now that the refunding bill is definitely defeated the government should proceed to foreclose its mortgages and to sue the stock and bondholders for the \$90,000,000 of so far which they are personally responsible. In other words, the government should now proceed to get what it can and so finally out of a business that has become a corruption from beginning to end.

Buffalo Express: The failure of the bill probably means that immediate steps will be taken to foreclose the government's mortgages on the roads, though not necessarily imply that the government will take possession of the roads, does that may follow. It will probably first offer them to public sale, and there after will be expected capitalists anxious to secure them and willing to pay the government enough to make up a considerable part of its losses. If that but they do not mean the government will be best to sell them. But it would be better to convert them into government roads than to let them go to private corporations for their own use.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: The necessity of prompt and radical attention by the government is shown by the fact that the Southern Pacific lease of the Central Pacific and is diverting all the business it can from the Central Pacific to the Southern lines, thus aiming to render practically useless one of the government securities which it owns. The government should therefore take prompt action to prevent this. The powers bill would have kept in the grasp of the government the Central Pacific has been trying to break the lease on the ground of violation of conditions, but the powers bill would have kept in the grasp of the government the Central Pacific for its own credit. The powers bill would have been rendered absolutely valueless as a security and been abandoned.

Chicago Tribune: The Washington dispatches state that foreclosing proceedings will be commenced at once against the Pacific roads. It is stated also that last week a bill was submitted to congress which would have foreclosed the roads and brought before the circuit court of appeals for the District of Columbia. Otherwise there will have to be separate suits in a dozen states, involving time, expense and labor. If the proceedings are carried out at Washington the law officers of the government will be on the ground, and can be at every step of the proceedings. The bill drafted by the attorney general, should be passed at once. Who in the senate or house will venture to oppose a measure which shall be manifestly in the interest of the people?

Springfield (Mass.) Republican: Considerations like this have prompted the supporters of government ownership in congress to draft and to carry through a bill which will compel the executive to go ahead. They have now succeeded. But there is no occasion for alarm. The bill is not a measure which will be manifestly in the interest of the people.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican: Considerations like this have prompted the supporters of government ownership in congress to draft and to carry through a bill which will compel the executive to go ahead. They have now succeeded. But there is no occasion for alarm. The bill is not a measure which will be manifestly in the interest of the people.

THE ARBITRATION TREATY. Chicago Chronicle: The general treaty of arbitration marks a grand stride forward in the advance of civilization. It is one of those triumphs of peace transcendently more glorious than the triumphs of war.

New York Herald: The treaty is sprinkled with commemorations of the bloody victories of war. Let this greater victory of peace become more renowned than the most glorious of the wars.

Chicago Times-Herald: "Peace hath her victories," and this will be one of the most renowned, for it marks the most decided step that modern governments have taken away from the dark ages of bloody superstitious of the ancient times.

Minneapolis Journal: It is the biggest credit mark won by this administration since it began and the public will not be slow enough to credit Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Olney of that which they are entitled, even if the senate were so disposed.

Kansas City Star: The treaty framed by the representatives of the United States of America and Great Britain, and which has been transmitted to the senate of the United States for its approval, is an evidence of advancing civilization. As the world grows richer and better nations make treaties instead of making wars.

Indianapolis Journal: The negotiation of a treaty with Great Britain, which pledges both governments to submit all questions of difference to arbitration, removes all causes of war with the nation with which the United States has had most of its differences. It can be said that the treaty is a landmark in the history of the world, and that the senate should not ratify it, unless it should be found to contain provisions which have not yet been outlined.

Louisville Courier-Journal: The influence of the action of two great nations such as the United States and Great Britain in the interest of international concord cannot be very great. It would be extravagant to suppose that wars and the bloodshed which is waged and heard of no more, but it is certainly a distinct advance in the direction of future peace when such an agreement is signed by powers of the first class.

Chicago Record: The formation of this treaty is an act of such great importance that its full significance may not be generally apparent at the present time. It will be remembered that the treaty was signed by the Cleveland administration. It marks the beginning of a new order of things, in which nations shall settle their differences by some other means than war, which hitherto has wrought such great destruction. There could be no more auspicious opening of the new century.

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SPANISH OFFER TO CUBANS

United States and Spain Said to Have Reached an Agreement. Sweeping Reforms in the Administration of Affairs on the Island Contemplated. Treaty All Ready.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—The World today publishes a dispatch from Washington saying the agreement between the United States and Spain regarding the terms to be granted the Cuban insurgents has practically been concluded. It is another treaty, not a diplomatic memorandum, in a compact, or agreement, between the United States and Spain upon the terms that Spain is willing to grant the insurgents. It provides for capitulation and pardon of the insurgents, for whom General Gomez is expected to sign the treaty. There are three parties to the agreement. The United States represents the insurgents. There are still some details to be arranged, and these may occupy ten days more. By the end of January the terms will be completed. They will then be laid before congress in a special message from Cleveland. Simultaneously they will be promulgated in Madrid and in Havana. The provisional draft of the new terms was embodied in a lengthy communication to the president by General Lewin, the chief negotiator, and was brought by Senator Canova. This was brought by Senator Polo Solar y Guardisnia, who arrived here from Madrid on Monday.

It included not only the amendments to the reform law of 1855 (provisionally stated) that Spain is now willing to grant, but also a draft of a treaty between Spain and the insurgents, which the reform law is to have in effect. The first draft of this proposed treaty of capitulation read as follows:

Article 1—The political, organic and administrative reforms contained in the reform law of March 23, 1855, with all of the amendments agreed to between the United States and the legal representative of the Cuban revolution, shall be immediately established in Cuba.

Article 2—Free pardon for all the political offenses committed from 1895 to date and for all those who have taken part directly or indirectly in the Cuban revolution, and for all those who have taken part in the Spanish army regardless of nationality, this clause being extended to include all those who have taken part in the Cuban revolution, and for all those who have taken part in the Spanish army regardless of nationality.

Article 3—No individual who by virtue of this capitulation shall submit to and remain under the authority of the Spanish government shall be compelled to render any military service before peace is established over the whole territory.

GIVEN FREE PASSPORTS. Article 4—Every individual who by virtue of this capitulation may wish to depart from the island shall be permitted to do so and the Spanish government shall provide him with a passport, which shall be valid for any town or settlement if he desires.

Article 5—The capitulation of each force shall take place in an uninhabited spot, where beforehand the arms and munitions of war shall be deposited.

Article 6—In order to further the acceptance by the insurgents of the other departments of these articles of capitulation the commander-in-chief of the Spanish army will order the free transportation of land and sea over all the lines within his control to the central department.

Article 7—This capitulation shall be deemed to have been made with all in rebellion against the authority of the Spanish crown who may accept its conditions.

It is the expectation that General Gomez, with a committee of other Cuban leaders, will meet the representatives of Spain at a time and place not yet settled and sign this treaty. Its terms are similar to that of the capitulation of Zanjao at the close of the Cuban war.

While the details offered to the reform of March, 1855, cannot now be definitely stated, inasmuch as they are still open to change and modification, it can be safely asserted that the concessions which General Gomez demanded through Senator Sagasta have received marked consideration. The points which were most insisted upon by the insurgents and their immediate acceptance of the peace treaty. While it is hinted at the Spanish location and substantial concessions, it is a guarantee that General Gomez has promised to lay down his arms in the event of the United States becoming in a moral sense guarantor of the conditions of a permanent understanding between the insurgents and the United States is not definitely settled.

Spain clings to her old position of dictating her own terms and absolutely refusing her own policy. Nevertheless, she has been forced by the complicated circumstances of the case to acknowledge the United States as a party to the Cuban war, and by admitting to the treaty she proposes to make with her rebellious subjects she also acknowledges tacitly the position of the United States as a mediator and a guarantor of the observance of the treaty terms.

Another report says it is positively denied that Spain and the United States have practically concluded an agreement regarding terms to be offered the insurgents for the settlement of the Cuban rebellion. It is denied also that a special envoy of Spain is to be sent to the United States as a private negotiator with special instructions from Senator Canova and the duke of Tetuan.

It is said that this latter report probably arose from the fact that Senator Solar y Guardisnia, who was recently in Washington to succeed one of the secretaries of the legation, Senator Solar was formerly the secretary to the duke of Tetuan, and when the duke was announced a report similar to the present one was circulated and officially denied.

INDEPENDENCE OR NOTHING. WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—Mr. Quezada of the Cuban revolution received a long letter from his uncle, Salvador De Clancos, the president of the Cuban republic, which, by showing the Cuban revolutionaries that the insurgents are willing to negotiate terms of peace on any other basis than absolute independence. The latter says in part: "I am glad to hear that you are ready to show sympathy for Cuba. I am preparing a report in which the government of the republic will ask for the recognition of the independence of the island."

"We will renew our offensive campaign in a few days," General Gomez has just written to Santa Clara with reinforcements and munitions of war. He will go further west. Our situation is very prosperous and we have plenty of ammunition, not only for rifles, but for cannon, and in Camaguey a dynamite cannon, the railroads would be destroyed and the few garrisons inland toward would be abandoned by the enemy and they would be confined to the coast. As I expect to receive these war materials from abroad, we very soon will be glad to see the people and I am in a position to give them, when they depart, our last goodbye."

Senator Quezada declares there is absolutely no truth in the reports of a plan for a compromise on a basis of home rule for the island. "The Cubans are determined to fall like men, rather than to surrender fully and with cowardice. I renounce our purpose by entering into or accepting any agreement which would mean the abandonment forever of the high ideal of complete emancipation. To all such projects the Cuban people have responded with their motto 'Independence or Death.'"

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE. Weyler is well satisfied with his work in Pinar del Rio, or says he is, and it really does appear that he has cleared that province of everything except insurgents. He recently received and accepted an invitation from the same boy to supper.

If Senator Morrill of Vermont lives until March 3 he will have to be tied up with full terms in the United States senate, which no man has yet done. His nearest competitor was Senator Benton of Missouri, who served four terms and a half.

Prof. Rudolph Falb, the celebrated meteorologist of Vienna, is lying hiddden in that city. He has a wife and five children and

the entire family are in a state of extreme destitution. A number of Berlin scientists and savants have started a fund for their relief.

Prof. von Bergmann, the great Berlin physician, recently celebrated his 60th birthday with a portrait of himself by Lenbach was given to him by his present and former assistants. Many of the old pupils of Bergmann attended the celebration, some from distant cities.

A former emperor of Russia wanted a railroad built from St. Petersburg to Moscow. Learning that engineers could not agree upon a route he called for a map. Taking a ruler and a pen he drew a straight line between the two cities, saying: "That is the route; now build the road. And it was built."

POINTED PERSIFLAGE. Philadelphia Record: The tsardarat who is trying to collect a bill is out for the stuff.

Judge: "Maud—Maud! makes you think Maud is in the wood service?" "May—because whenever he appears the conversation flags."

Indianapolis Journal: "I'm hungry enough to eat a horse." "Come along with me and we will have a couple of ponies."

Chicago Record: "Greatness is not to be measured by the dollars a man possesses, but by the number of people who desire to give expensive presents before they die."

Washington Star: "My mother says," the young woman observed to her fiance, "to never let your wife know of a young man's giving a girl expensive presents before they are married."

A WINTER BERENADE. Chicago Record: He sang "neath Jule's casement. Though he stood knee-deep in snow, And his hands were so frosty He could hardly make it go.

When she flung her lattice open, To never let your wife know, A four-pound icicle came down, And nearly broke his nose.

HE FOUND IT AT LAST. New York Herald: He found he had a liver—just as accident, one day. And his life grew blank and lonely, and he was heard to sigh.

That marriage was a failure and life an empty dream. That hopes and high ambitions were far from what they seem. While endless strife and struggle to gain a distant shore.

Was like reaching after moonbe